



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|                   |  |                        |              |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|--------------|
| Applicant:        | Gunter Ritter  | Examiner:              | unknown      |
| Serial No.:       | 10/088,048   | Group Art Unit:        | 1712         |
| Filed:            | June 4, 2002   | Docket:                | 12742.0050US |
| Confirmation No.: | 6731   | Notice of Allow. Date: | n/a          |
| Due Date:         | n/a  |                        |              |
| Title:            | WATER TREATMENT AGENT FOR EXTENDING WATER EXCHANGE INTERVALS IN TANK SYSTEMS |                        |              |

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:**

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV347833481US  
Date of Deposit: May 30, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: John J. Jenkins

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

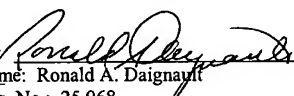
Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 9 Reference(s), Copy of International Search Report
- ☒ Other: Copy of the specification for US Patent Application No. 10/088,049.
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By:   
Name: Ronald A. Daignault  
Reg. No.: 25,968  
R. Daignault:smm





S/N 10/088,048

PATENT

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|             |   |                 |                |
|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant:  | Gunter Ritter   | Examiner:       | unknown        |
| Serial No.: | 10/088,048  | Group Art Unit: | 1712           |
| Filed:      | June 4, 2002  | Docket No.:     | 12742.0050USWG |
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By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: John Makers

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were cited in the International Search Reports mailed on December 13, 2000 and December 15, 2000. Applicant wishes to call the Examiner's attention to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/088,049. A copy of the specification for the application is enclosed.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the International Search Report.

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A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

US 6,477,982 is the English equivalent of DE 296 17 181.

US 6,477,982 is the English equivalent of WO 97/34838.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.


Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: May 30, 2003

By   
Ronald Daignault  
Reg. No. 25,968

RAD/smm

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|   |                                  |                                   |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>FORM 1449*</b><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b><br><b>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number:<br>12742.0050USWO | Application Number:<br>10/088,048 |
|   | Applicant: Gunter Ritter         |                                   |
|   | Filing Date: June 4, 2002        | Group Art Unit: 1712              |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |           |        |       |          |                               |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE      | NAME   | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       | US 6,477,982 | Nov. 2002 | RITTER |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |           |        |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |           |        |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |           |        |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |           |        |       |          |                               |
|                       |              |           |        |       |          |                               |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |               |            |               |       |          |             |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|
|                          | DOCUMENT NO.  | DATE       | COUNTRY       | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
|                          |               |            |               |       |          | YES NO      |
|                          | JP 61-96959   | May 1986   | JAPAN         |       |          | Abstract    |
|                          | CN 1 115 620  | Jan. 1996  | CHINA         |       |          | Abstract    |
|                          | DE 296 17 181 | Feb. 1997  | GERMANY       |       |          |             |
|                          | DE 197 04 953 | Aug. 1998  | GERMANY       |       |          | Abstract    |
|                          | DE 195 33 994 | March 1997 | GERMANY       |       |          | Abstract    |
|                          | GB 1 415 453  | Nov. 1975  | GREAT BRITAIN |       |          |             |
|                          | WO 97/34838   | Sept. 1997 | WO            |       |          | Abstract    |
|                          | WO 96/26905   | Sept. 1996 | WO            |       |          | Abstract    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
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|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. |                 |